

Recoveries of birds ringed in Sénégal and The Gambia during recent years

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During the period 1990 to 1993, several international expeditions to Sénégal were organised by the Wetland Trust and subsequently a regular programme of bird ringing in The Gambia has been organised by J M B King, with the assistance of the Wetland Trust. A total of 75,000 Palearctic birds was ringed using rings supplied by the Centre de Recherches sur la Biologie des Populations d'Oiseaux (CRBPO, France) for Sénégal and British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), (UK & Ireland) for The Gambia. Also, many birds were captured that were already carrying rings from the Palearctic. Unfortunately, administrative problems have prevented a full data set of recoveries being made available and while there has been recent progress the problem remains unresolved. Given these circumstances it appears useful to publish an interim report, presenting details of the data currently available, and hopefully before too long it will be possible to publish a paper with more complete data.

Most of the recoveries are of four species: Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*, Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*, Sedge Warbler *A. schoenobaenus* and Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*. These data are tabulated below.

	Sand Martin	Reed Warbler	Sedge Warbler	Chiffchaff
England and Wales	321	85	61	66
Scotland	69		1	
Ireland	25		29	
Channel Islands	4	3	4	2
Sweden	1		1	
Norway	1			
Germany	3			
Netherlands	8		1	
Belgium	7	2	10	
France	103	4	21	1
Spain	19	24	3	1
Portugal	4	21		1
Italy	1			
Totals	566	139	131	71

These data compare with the previous main sources for Sand Martin², based on 31 trans-Saharan recoveries, and for Reed Warbler¹, involving 44 such recoveries, Sedge Warbler¹ 44 trans-Saharan recoveries and Chiffchaff¹ with 11 trans-Saharan recoveries.

While this represents a substantial increase in the data available for trans-Saharan recoveries of these species, caution is required with any interpretation because of the incomplete nature of the data set. For instance, the absence of any recoveries from north-west Africa for these four species is very surprising and indicative of the missing data.

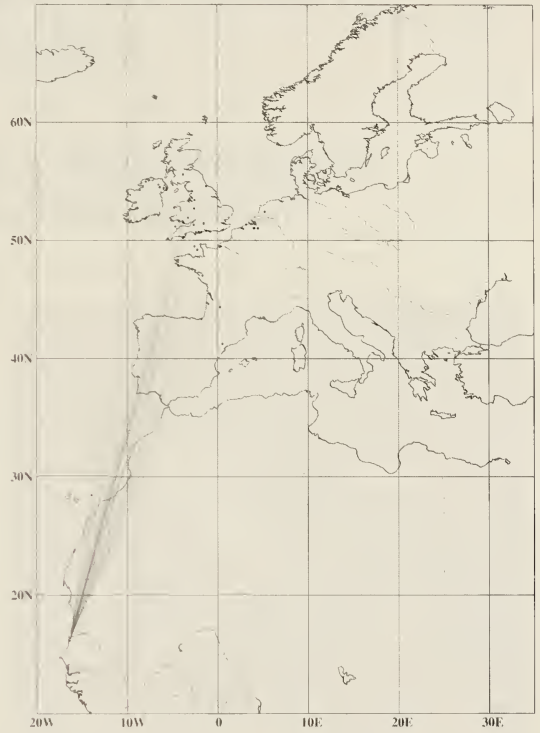
The remaining species each have small numbers of recoveries, some of which conform to already established patterns and some of which will be novel.

- Red-billed Tropicbird *Phaethon aethereus*—São Tomé
- Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*—France
- Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*—Netherlands
- Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*—Morocco
- Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*—Germany, Spain
- Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*—Germany
- Little Stint *Calidris minuta*—Portugal, Italy (2), Malta
- Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*—Norway, Ukraine
- Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*—Finland, Germany, Hungary
- Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*—France
- Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*—Sweden
- Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*—Netherlands
- Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*—France
- Redshank *Tringa totanus*—Netherlands, France, UK
- Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*—Finland (2), Morocco
- Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*—Germany, Portugal
- Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*—Norway
- Audouin's Gull *Larus audouinii*—Spain
- Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*—Ireland
- Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*—Netherlands
- Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*—Germany, Belgium, Spain (2)
- White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*—Iceland
- Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*—UK (2)
- Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*—Germany, Netherlands
- Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleucos*—UK
- Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*—UK (3), Germany
- Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*—Spain (3)
- Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*—Belgium
- Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*—UK (3), Belgium
- Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*—Morocco, Canary Islands
- Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*—UK (6), Netherlands
- Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*—UK (2)

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*



Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*



Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*



In future, we intend to produce a regular report of the most notable bird ringing recoveries in Africa in this journal. It would be most helpful if anyone in possession of data that they consider suitable for inclusion could forward these to the author.

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